

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 10/618,963

REMARKS

In paragraph 4, on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 36-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Specifically, the Examiner states that Claim 36 is indefinite, i.e., the phrase "wherein said adapter molecule comprises one or more magnifying tags as claimed in Claim 26", lacks proper antecedent basis.

In view of the amendments to Claim 26, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection has been rendered moot.

In paragraph 7, on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 26-29 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Keith et al.

Specifically, the Examiner states that Keith et al teaches a method of sequencing all or part of a target nucleic acid molecule comprising all of the limitations recited in Claims 26-29 and 35 (see Figures 5a-5d and the description of Figure 5 in Column 2 thereof).

For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection.

Applicants note that Claim 30, which has not been included in this rejection, recites the "magnifying tag" language that is the basis of Applicant's technology.

Claim 26 is hereby amended to recite that determining the sequence of a portion of the target nucleic acid molecule is carried out by "identifying magnifying tags" associated with the target nucleic acid molecule. Support for this amendment exists

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throughout the application as filed, in particular, pages 13 to 15 and Claim 30.

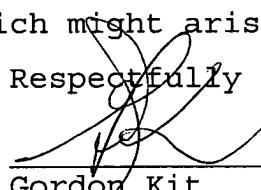
It is submitted that since Claim 30 is considered to be allowable, then amended Claim 26 should also be considered allowable, as it recites similar subject matter.

Keith et al does not teach or suggest a method of sequencing utilizing "magnifying tags".

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submit that the present invention is not taught or suggested in Keith, and thus request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed number on any questions which might arise.

Respectfully submitted,


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